



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2620

education; certification renewal fees

Prime Sponsor: Representative Coleman, LD 16

DP Committee on Education

DP Caucus and COW

X As Transmitted to the Governor

OVERVIEW

HB 2620 specifies powers and duties of the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE).

PROVISIONS

1. Specifies that SBE may fix and collect fees for the evaluation of certificates, name changes, duplicates or changes of coding to existing files or certificates.
2. Conforms the statutory number of SBE members to the Arizona Constitution.
3. Requires the Arizona Department of Administration, rather than the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), to approve travel expenses and subsistence reimbursement claims for SBE members.
4. Specifies that the SBE personal liability immunity only applies on actions approved by a majority vote of all members of SBE.
5. Removes the requirement for the SPI to recommend staff to be employed by SBE.
6. Requires SBE to supervise the duties of its employees, subject to the State Personnel System.
7. Prohibits cost assessments against persons filing frivolous complaints from exceeding the expenses incurred by ADE in the complaint investigation, rather than costs incurred by SBE.
8. Specifies that the SPI is responsible for the execution of SBE policies.
9. Removes the authority of the SPI to direct the work of all employees of SBE.
10. Specifies that the SPI directs employees and divisions of ADE.
11. Directs the SPI to direct and oversee the work of all certification investigators for immoral or unprofessional conduct.
 - a. Directs the investigators to be housed at ADE and be employees of ADE.
12. Directs the SPI to provide information to SBE relating to enumerated powers and duties.
13. Permits ADE to request specified items from school districts relating to disciplinary actions for certificated persons and directs ADE to maintain the confidentiality requirement.
14. Requires ADE rather than SBE to provide information, records or reports relating to certificate holder investigations for immoral or unprofessional conduct.
15. Removes SBE from the certification deficiencies process and maintains ADE as the administrator.

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16. Directs the Arizona Department of Public Safety to share fingerprint card information with ADE rather than SBE
17. Requires SBE and ADE to jointly develop, implement and submit to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives a transition plan for investigative unit administration and personnel from SBE to ADE by August 1, 2016.
 - a. Requires the plan to include jointly agreed-on conforming changes needed for proposed legislation and a copy of the plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State.
18. Transfers 7 Full-Time Equivalent positions from SBE to the SPI for FY 2017 .
19. Transfers the following amounts from SBE to the SPI in FY 2017:
 - a. \$231,200 from the state General Fund.
 - b. \$379,800 from the Teacher Certification Fund.
20. Makes technical and conforming changes.

CURRENT LAW

[A.R.S. § 15-531](#) permits SBE to fix and collect the following fees:

- a. For the issuance and evaluation of teaching, administrative or other subject certificates, between \$20 and \$30.
- b. For the renewal of any certificate, name changes, duplicates or changes of coding to existing files or certificates, between \$10 and \$20.
- c. For the administration and evaluation of the Constitutions of the United States and Arizona exam, no more than the fees assessed by the test publisher.
- d. For the administration and evaluation for the proficiency exam for teaching certificate applicants, no more than the fees assessed by the test publisher.

When collecting the fees described above, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) may impose convenience fees on a per transaction basis for debit, credit or other electronic payments. ADE is also required to continue to except payments that are not subject to a convenience fee.